Australian words and phrases and their meanings

Adapted from *The New Dinkum Aussie Dictionary* by Crooked Mick of the Speewa

About right: The statement is absolutely true

Aerial ping-pong: AFL footy

All over him/her like a rash: unable to keep one’s hands off the object of one’s desire

Amber fluid: beer

Ankle biter: little kid, under two

Doesn’t know if he’s Arthur or Martha: very confused

As thick as two short planks: really, really stupid

‘Ave a go (ya mug)!: do something, you lazy so and so

Back o’ Burke/Back of beyond: somewhere remote and inaccessible

Barrack: encouraging your team from the sidelines, not always in a complimentary way

Barry Crocker: Rhyming slang for shocker – a bad one

Battler: Someone who’s had a hard life and will continue to have one

Beaut: very good or excellent

Better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick: things have turned out better than expected

Big smoke: country expression for any large city

Bite your bum!: A term used to tell someone to get lost or shut up

Blind/blind drunk: you’ve had so much alcohol you can’t see, let alone think

Blind Freddy: a mythical person who is dull or stupid. Eg. Of use: ‘Even blind Freddy could tell you...’

Blood/y oath: an expression of either wholehearted agreement or complete exasperation

Blow-in: an unexpected and unwelcome guest

Bludge: to muck around and do nothing when you’re supposed to be doing something

Blue: disagreement or fight

Bog in: an invitation to eat (2, 4, 6, 8, bog in, don’t wait)

Bomb out: to fail

Buckley’s: to have no hope/chance (‘He’s got Buckley’s chance’)

Bung: to put something somewhere, or something that isn’t working

Burl: have a go at something (give it a burl)

Cabbie: taxi driver

Cark: to die (he’s carked it)

Carry on like a pork chop: to make a fuss about nothing

Charge like a wounded bull: to make customers pay an excessive amount of money

Chippie: carpenter

Chockers: full, overfull

Chunder/technicolour yawn: vomit

Cluey: someone who’s well informed or intelligent

Cranky: bad-tempered, mad or both

Crooked as a dog’s hind leg: describes someone who’s not to be trusted

Dark on: if you’re dark on someone, you’re angry with them

Dead horse: tomato sauce

Dill: fool

Ding dong: fight

Dog’s breakfast: untidy

Drongo: stupid person

Dunderhead: fool

Durry: cigarette

Fair dinkum: the absolute truth

Fizzer: dismal failure

Flat chat: to move at high speed

Gawk/Gander: a look

Good oil: the truth, correct information

Grouse: good

Gutful: more than enough (I’ve had a gutful of you)

Hayburner: Horse

Heart-starter: alcoholic drink

Hit the frog and toad: rhyming slang for hit the road

Hooroo/Ooroo: goodbye

Jack of: tired of (I’m jack of this job)

Joe Blow: an ordinary bloke

Kack hander: a left handed person

Kangaroos loose in the top paddock: (as in, ‘he’s got...’) Means someone’s mad/a lunatic

Knuckle sandwich: (I’ll give you a...) punch

Kick the bucket: to die

Leave for dead: to out-perform or overtake

Leg it: to walk

Lingo: language

Liquid laugh: vomiting (having a liquid laugh)

Lob: arrive or depart (He just lobbed on my doorstep one day)

Lunatic soup: alcohol in any form

Mad as a cut snake: both crazy and angry

Mob: large number of people, sheep, kangaroos etc

Mug: fool, loser

Mystery bag: snag, sausage

Nong: idiot or fool

Not half bad: excellent

Off like a bucket of prawns in the sun: departing quickly

Off the hook: safe (he let me off the hook)

On the blink: not working, broken

On the nose: off, bad-smelling

Pass muster: to be acceptable

Pearler: something that’s very good

Pike: opt out of something or give up easily (also, Piker is one who does this)

Piss yourself: to laugh so hard you wet your pants

Pointing Percy at the porcelain: having a wee (blokes only)

Pozzie: place or position

Pull your head in: shut up

(Rare as) rocking horse poo: means something is very scarce indeed. Rocking horses can’t poo...

Ropeable: Extremely angry

Rug rat: small and obnoxious child under two years of age

Sandwich short of a picnic: someone who’s a bit mad or loopy

Sanger: Sandwich

Shirty: bad tempered or irritable

Snaffle: pinch or thieve (snaffle a sandwich from the table)

Sook: a coward or whinger

Sparkie: electrician

Squiz: a quick look

Stiff: bad luck

Stroppy: in a bad temper

Stunned mullet: someone who is both ugly and stupid

(He/she could) Talk under wet cement with a mouth full of marbles: someone who won’t shut up

Toey: anxious or bad tempered

Under the weather: ill

Up a gumtree: on the wrong track

Wet blanket: a killjoy

What’s the damage?: What’s the cost? Or How much do I owe?

Within cooee: close

Wouldn’t have a bar of it: an inability to tolerate something

Yacker/Yacka: work

Yobbo: hooligan

You’re not wrong: You’re right

Your blood’s worth bottling: said to someone who you admire greatly or to whom you are grateful